

ON THE MARKET

Rare Rossiter offering in Litchfield

Featured in Ann Y. Smith's book, "Ehrick K. Rossiter: Designs for Modern Living 1880-1930," and now on the market, is this 1898 Colonial Revival manse that stands solidly among the row of Litchfield's South Street estates. More than a century ago, Rossiter became one of Connecticut's premiere architects, but the largest share of his standing portfolio exists in the town of Washington, Conn., Even in neighboring Litchfield, his work is noticeably sparse. Thus, this 16-room stately structure has a certain allure it would



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
This 1898 Colonial Revival, nicknamed "Forked Chimneys," is a stunning example of a Litchfield County manse designed by Ehrick Rossiter.

miss if it were even one town south. "The lovely county estates that Rossiter designed in the village of Washington,



Among the current owners renovations is the kitchen bathed in natural light.

Conn., have been featured in books, magazines, tours and exhibits," Smith stated in her book. "Less well known are the gracious country houses and churches he designed in nearby New Milford, Litchfield, Ridgefield, and Norfolk; the mansions in Hartford, New Haven, and Southport; and the buildings for The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville." Homes of a shingle style are more prevalent in Washington, but when his clients outside of town favored the Colonial Revival style, Rossiter learned to adjust. Such is the case

here. Known as "Forked Chimneys," apparently because the dual chimneys bookending the top floor window frames lend the house a forked appearance, the home stands as a shining example of the work of one of the area's most treasured architects. "As an architect, Ehrick Rossiter embodied the priorities of American society at the end of the nineteenth century," Smith wrote. "Stylistically, his designs reflected the aspirations of his affluent clients, who expected sophisticated homes in the city and in their rural retreats." But, after a century, even the best homes need updating. "We've owned about a decade and restored it completely, because it had wonderful bones," said David W. Freelove. "We have a new roof, new plumbing and electric, and new floors." The old roof was copper, as is the new. But perhaps the unique feature was found not above but below. "There was also a stage in the basement," Freelove continued; "the floor was dirt, so we took it out, made it a workshop."

— Jack Coraggio

IN THE DETAILS

Listing: Klemm Real Estate

Price: \$2.2 million

Bedrooms: 7 **Baths:** 7

Acreage: 1.3

Year built: 1898

Do you have a home for sale with a story? We'd love to tell it. Share with Alec Johnson at ajohnson@rep-am.com